

Maine Revised Statutes

Title 39-A: WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Enacted by PL 1991, c. 885, Pt. A, §8

Chapter 7: PROCEDURES Enacted by PL 1991, c. 885, Pt. A, §8

§318. HEARING AND DECISION

The hearing officer shall hear those witnesses as may be presented or, by agreement, the claims of both parties as to the facts may be presented by affidavits. If the facts are not in dispute, the parties may file with the hearing officer an agreed statement of facts for a ruling on the applicable law. From the evidence or statements furnished, the hearing officer shall in a summary manner decide the merits of the controversy. The hearing officer's decision must be filed in the office of the board and a copy, attested by the clerk of the board, mailed promptly to all parties interested or to the attorney of record of each party. The hearing officer's decision, in the absence of fraud, on all questions of fact is final; but if the hearing officer expressly finds that any party has or has not sustained the party's burden of proof, that finding is considered a conclusion of law and is reviewable in accordance with section 322. [1991, c. 885, Pt. A, §8 (NEW); 1991, c. 885, Pt. A, §§9-11 (AFF).]

The hearing officer, upon motion by the petitioning party, may include a finding in the decree that the employer's refusal to pay the benefits at issue was not based on any rational grounds developed between the claim and formal hearing. Upon such a finding, the employer shall pay interest to the employee under section 205, subsection 6 at a rate of 25% per annum from the date each payment was due, instead of 10% per annum. [1999, c. 410, §2 (NEW).]

The hearing officer, upon the motion of a party made within 20 days after notice of the decision or upon its own motion, may find the facts specially and state separately the conclusions of law and file the appropriate decision if it differs from the decision filed before the request was made. Those findings and conclusions and the revised decision must be filed in the office of the board and a copy, attested by the clerk of the board, must be mailed promptly to all parties interested. The running of the time for appeal is terminated by a timely motion made pursuant to this section and the full time for appeal commences to run from the filing of those findings and conclusions and the revised decision. [1991, c. 885, Pt. A, §8 (NEW); 1991, c. 885, Pt. A, §§9-11 (AFF).]

Clerical mistakes in decrees, orders or other parts of the record and errors arising from oversight or omission may be corrected by the board at any time of its own initiative, at the request of the hearing officer or on the motion of any party and after notice to the parties. During the pendency of an appeal, these mistakes may be corrected before the appeal is filed with the division and thereafter, while the appeal is pending, may be corrected with leave of the division. [2013, c. 63, §10 (AMD); 2013, c. 63, §16 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

1991, c. 885, §A8 (NEW). 1991, c. 885, §§A9-11 (AFF). 1999, c. 410, §2 (AMD). 2013, c. 63, §10 (AMD). 2013, c. 63, §16 (AFF).

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